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Kenya's Constitution Becomes Law on Promulgation Day August 27, 2010

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki formally signed the country's new Constitution into law today during a ceremony in Nairobi's Uhuru Park. Tens of thousands of people gathered to watch their leader promulgate the new document, amid gun salutes and a military parade.

Upon signing the Constitution, President Kibaki declared that "this moment marks the decisive conclusion of the twenty-year journey in search of a new constitutional order. This new Constitution is an embodiment of our best hopes, aspirations, ideals and values for a peaceful and more prosperous nation. The new Constitution gives us renewed optimism about our country and its future."

The debate over a new constitution has lasted 20 years. Some see its enactment into law as the most important event for Kenya since independence. "People are calling [this occasion] the rebirth – people are calling it the second republic," Kenyan Ambassador to the United States Elkanah Odembo told *Foreign Policy* magazine this week.

Kenyans have expressed great confidence in their government's commitment to successfully implement the new laws enshrined in the Constitution. A *Daily Nation* poll released Thursday showed 82 percent of Kenyans believe the government will work to bring about the country's democratic reforms.

The new Constitution, which won 67 percent of the vote in the August 4 referendum, promises to bring greater stability and prosperity to Kenya and the East African region. Among its many reforms, the new charter embraces the separation of powers, establishes a second chamber and a land commission to settle land disputes. It also establishes a Supreme Court and allows Kenyans to hold dual citizenship.

To read more, please find the *Foreign Policy* article [here](#) and the *Daily Nation* article [here](#). For the text of President Kibaki's speech, please click [here](#).

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